

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method of playing a wagering game:
placing at least one bet;
a player receiving a first set of symbols from which a poker rank may be determined in reading the symbols;
determining the poker rank of the first set of symbols as a first poker rank;
the player receiving at least a second set of symbols from which a poker rank may be determined in reading the symbols;
determining the poker rank of the second set of symbols;
comparing the poker rank of the second set of symbols to the poker rank of the first set of symbols;
determining whether the poker rank of said second set of symbols ties or exceeds the first poker rank;
resolving the at least one bet with respect to whether the second poker rank ties or exceeds the first poker rank.
2. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of claim 1 wherein receiving the first set of symbols comprises receiving a first initial set of symbols and having the option of discarding all or less than all of the symbols and replacing discarded symbols to provide the first poker rank, and the at least a second set of symbols is received only when the first poker rank equals or exceeds a predetermined Upoker rank.
3. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of claim 2 wherein receiving the second set of symbols comprises receiving a second initial set of symbols and having the option of discarding all or less than all of the symbols and replacing discarded symbols to provide the second poker rank.
4. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of claim 1 wherein after resolving the at least one bet, the second poker rank becomes a base poker rank in a next round of

play of receiving a third set of symbols and comparing a poker rank for the third set of symbols to the second poker rank, wherein if the third poker rank ties or exceeds the second poker rank, resolving the at least one bet with respect to at least one of whether the third poker rank ties or exceeds the second poker rank and b) how many consecutive rounds have been played where a present hand poker rank has exceeded a previous hand poker rank.

5. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method of playing a sequence of rounds in a wagering game:

a) a player placing a first bet to ~~[[potentially]]~~ play in a sequence of games on an undivided first bet;

b) the player receiving a first set of symbols from which a poker rank may be determined in reading the symbols;

c) determining the rank of the first set of symbols as a first poker rank, the game ending if the first poker rank does not equal a predetermined poker rank and the game continuing to a following step d) if the first poker rank does exceed or equal the predetermined poker rank;

d) the player receiving at least a second set of symbols from which a poker rank may be determined in reading the symbols;

e) determining the poker rank of the second set of symbols;

f) comparing the poker rank of the second set of symbols to the rank of the first set of symbols;

g) determining whether the poker rank of said second set of symbols ties or exceeds the first poker rank; and

h) resolving the first bet according to a payable with respect to whether the second poker rank ties or exceeds the first poker rank.

6. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of claim 5 wherein after step h), i) receiving a third set of symbols from which a poker rank may be determined in reading the symbols; j) determining the poker rank of the third set of symbols as a third poker rank; k) comparing the poker rank of the third set of symbols to the poker rank of the

second set of symbols; l) determining whether the poker rank of said third set of symbols ties or exceeds the second poker rank; and m) further resolving the first bet according to a payable with respect to whether the third poker rank ties or exceeds the second poker rank.

7. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of claim 6 wherein after step m), n) receiving a fourth set of symbols from which a poker rank may be determined in reading the symbols; o) determining the poker rank of the fourth set of symbols as a fourth poker rank; p) comparing the poker rank of the fourth set of symbols to the poker rank of the third set of symbols; q) determining whether the rank of said fourth set of symbols ties or exceeds the third poker rank; and r) further resolving the first bet according to a payable with respect to whether the fourth rank ties or exceeds the third poker rank.

8. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of claim 7 wherein when a hand of high poker rank selected from the group consisting of Four-of-a-Kind, Straight Flush and Royal Flush is achieved on any hand, a special bonus is awarded the player.

9. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 8 wherein the special bonus varies depending upon which hand in the sequence of rounds the high hand occurs.

10. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method of playing a sequence of rounds in a wagering game:

a) placing an initial wager of at least a first bet to ~~[[potentially]]~~ play in a sequence of games on an undivided first bet;

b) receiving a first set of symbols from which a poker rank may be determined in reading the symbols to determine a poker rank;

c) determining the rank of the first set of symbols as a first poker rank, the game ending if the first poker rank does not equal a predetermined poker rank and continuing to a following step d) if the first poker rank does exceed or equal the predetermined poker rank;

d) receiving at least a second set of symbols from which a poker rank may be determined in reading the symbols;

e) determining the poker rank of the second set of symbols;

f) comparing the poker rank of the second set of symbols to the poker rank of the first set of symbols;

g) determining whether the poker rank of said second set of symbols ties or exceeds the first poker rank; and

h) resolving the at least a first bet according to a payable with respect to whether the second poker rank ties or exceeds the first poker rank;

wherein at any time after resolution of step h) when the second rank ties or exceeds the first poker rank, the player is provided with an option to withdraw all or some of the initial wager, continuing the [[game]] sequence of rounds in which consecutive poker ranks are compared with less than all of the initial wager if less than all of the initial wager is withdrawn.

11. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of claim 10 wherein when a hand of high poker rank selected from the group consisting of Four-of-a-Kind, Straight Flush and Royal Flush is achieved on any hand, a special bonus is awarded the player.

12. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 11 wherein the special bonus varies depending upon which hand in the sequence of rounds the high hand occurs.

13. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method of playing a potential sequence of X rounds in a wagering game, where X is a whole integer of greater than 2:

- a) placing an initial wager of at least a first bet to [[potentially]] play in a sequence of games on an undivided first bet;
- b) receiving a first set of symbols from which a poker rank may be determined in reading the symbols;
- c) determining the poker rank of the first set of symbols as a first poker rank, the game ending if the first poker rank does not equal a predetermined poker rank and

continuing to a following step d) if the first poker rank does exceed or equal the predetermined poker rank;

d) receiving at least a second set of symbols from which a poker rank may be determined in reading the symbols;

e) determining the poker rank of the second set of symbols;

f) comparing the poker rank of the second set of symbols to the poker rank of the first set of symbols;

g) determining whether the poker rank of said second set of symbols ties or exceeds the first poker rank; and

h) resolving the at least a first bet according to a payable with respect to whether the second poker rank ties or exceeds the first poker rank;
wherein when in playing the sequence of X rounds, when a poker rank of one hand in a subsequent round fails to exceed a poker rank of a preceding hand, any remaining rounds up to at least the X rounds may be played according to steps b), c), d), e), f), g) and h) as if a first of the remaining rounds were a first round.

14. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 13 wherein the remaining rounds are played with an effective bet that is different from the at one first bet.

15. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 14 wherein the effective bet is less than the at least one first bet.

16. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method of playing a wagering game:

a player placing an initial wager of at least one bet;

the player receiving a first set of symbols from which a poker rank may be determined in reading the symbols;

determining the poker rank of the first set of symbols as a first poker rank to see if the first poker rank equals or exceeds a first predetermined poker rank;

if said first poker rank exceeds the first predetermined poker rank, the player receiving at least a second set of symbols from which a poker rank may be determined in reading the symbols;

determining the poker rank of the second set of symbols;

comparing the poker rank of the second set of symbols to the poker rank of the first set of symbols;

determining whether the poker rank of said second set of symbols either ties or exceeds the first poker rank;

resolving the at least one bet with respect to whether the second poker rank ties or exceeds the first poker rank,

wherein, if the second poker rank does not exceed the first poker rank, providing a third set of symbols to be compared to a second predetermined poker rank that is higher than said first predetermined poker rank and comparing a third poker rank of the third set of symbols to the second predetermined poker rank and resolving at least a part of the initial wager against a payable if the third poker rank exceeds the second poker rank.